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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/054,730	01/22/2002	Takashi Nozawa	03310.025001	3529

22511 7590 06/06/2003
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EXAMINER

HESS, BRUCE H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1774	5

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A25

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/054,730	Applicant(s) Nozawa et al.
	Examiner Bruce Hess	Group Art Unit 1774

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1-22-02 (IDS) or 12-30-02 (IDS)
- This action is FINAL.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 7, 17, 18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) 3, 5, 6, 8-16, 19 and 21 is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

All Some* None of the:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 1 1/2 and 4 Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

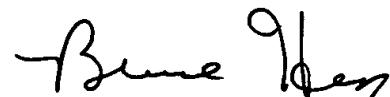
Art Unit: 1774

1. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 17, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Defieuw et al (EP 0,634,291).

This patent teaches a thermal transfer recording medium comprising in order a thermal transfer ink layer, a film substrate and a heat-resistant slip layer which can contain stearic acid, aluminum stearate and a binder (see page 3, lines 39, 40, 42 and 43; page 4, lines 11, 23 and 24; and page 6, lines 45 and 46). The experimental modification of this prior art in order to ascertain optimum operating conditions (e.g. determine composition proportions) fails to render applicants' claims patentable in the absence of unexpected results.

2. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8-16, 19 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Bruce Hess at telephone number (703) 308-2402.



B. Hess/dh
May 29, 2003

BRUCE H. HESS
PRIMARY EXAMINER